

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00908 110636Z

20

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 MC-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 /080 W

----- 081770

R 110545Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1789

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0908

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN SY TC

SUBJ: SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES ACQUISITION DECISION

REF: STATE 144821

BEIRUT 7720

1. WHEN I SAW SHAIKH ZAYID JULY 9 I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO PUT IN PLUG FOR SALE OF US CIVIL AIRCRAFT TO SYRIA. HIS REACTION WAS SOMEWHAT DISCONCERTING. PUZZLED EXPRESSION CAME ON HIS FACE AND HE SAID, "AM I PAYING FOR THOSE?". I SAID THAT WAS MY IMPRESSION, AND I THOUGHT I HAD BETTER REMIND HIM THAT SUM INVOLVED WAS ON ORDER OF \$40-50 MILLION. AMOUNT DID NOT REPEAT NOT SEEM TO FAZE HIM; HE SAID GENIALLY THAT HE WAS PAYING FOR SO MUCH THESE DAYS IT WAS HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF IT ALL. HE THEN LISTENED CAREFULLY TO MY COMMENTS ABOUT ADVANTAGES OF US-MADE AIRLINERS FOR SYRIA. I STRESSED PROVED SUPERIORITY OF US IN THIS FIELD AND SAID THAT SINCE RULER WOULD OBVIOUSLY WISH TO SEE HIS MONEY WELL SPENT HE MIGHT WISH TO REGISTER PREFERENCE FOR US AIRCRAFT WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. I SAID SALE OF US AIRCRAFT WOULD ALSO ASSIST BROADER POLITICAL OBJECTIVE WHICH I BELIEVED WE SHARED OF REWEAVING TIES BETWEEN US AND SYRIA. ZAYID  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABU DH 00908 110636Z

RESPONDED WARMLY TO THIS THEME (SEPTTEL) BUT MADE NO PROMISES

WITH RESPECT TO INTERVENTION WITH SYRIANS ON AIRCRAFT DEAL.

2. I ALSO HAD OCCASION TO MENTION SUBJECT WITH ABU DHABI  
MIN PUBLIC WORKS SHAIKH HAMDAN SEVERAL DAYS AGO. HAMDAN IS  
CAMPAIGNING FOR SALE OF BOEINGS TO GULF AVIATION AND ALSO  
POSSIBLY TO UAE AIRLINES IF DECISION IS MADE TO GO AHEAD  
WITH LATTER. ALTHOUGH BOEING APPARENTLY NOT REPEAT NOT  
IN COMPETITION IN SYRIAN SALE, HAMDAN IS PERSUADED OF  
SUPERIORITY OF US AIRCRAFT GENERALLY.  
STERNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, AIRCRAFT SALES, AIRLINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ABUDH00908  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740184-1035  
**From:** ABU DHABI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740759/aaaabyne.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 144821  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES ACQUISITION DECISION  
**TAGS:** ETRN, SY, TC, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005